The sounds of song and dance as well as the smells of delightful cuisine filled the warm air at Salt Lake City's annual Slavic Festival on July 7th. The festival, hosted by the Gallivan Center ran from 2:00pm to 10:00pm and featured various local Slavic dance and musical groups as well as booths that offered Slavic memorabilia, foods and information on local humanitarian programs.

Some countries represented at the festival included Romania, the Czech Republic, Russia and Ukraine and others.

In addition to the entertainment and booths, festival goers were able to participate in a pysanky class taught by Ingrid Hersman, the talented local pysanka artist.

The Utah-Russia Institute also had a table at the festival, and we enjoyed visiting with those of you who were able to attend the festival.

Many will agree that the festival was fun and enjoyable, despite the summer heat.

If you enjoyed the Slavic Fest, or if you couldn't make it, get ready, because Russia Days is on its way!

You won't want to miss this one!

Culture Corner: Wedding Day, Russian Style

Just as all cultures have unique wedding traditions, the traditional elements of Russian weddings make weddings memorable and quite enjoyable. Russian weddings are rich with beauty and joy as they radiate an overwhelming tone of excited celebration through the use of beautiful flowers, decorative furniture, formal attire, music, and dancing. However, the wealth of Russian wedding traditions illustrates that the celebration of a marriage exceeds the joys of the wedding ceremony itself. Many Slavic people believe that the marriage begins at the engagement. There is a preliminary agreement to marry between the parents of the prospective bride and groom. This agreement becomes a betrothal when the parents and the bride and groom consent and the planning and anticipation begins. Russian tradition emphasizes the incredible significance of weddings. As part of this, Russians celebrate their wedding anniversary for the rest of their married lives.

On the big day, the bridegroom and ushers come to the wedding in cars decorated with streamers and ribbons. As the bride and groom leave their houses and as they enter the church, the parents strew the path with millet,

(Continued on Page 3)
RASG/FRUA 3rd Annual Picnic

I hope you are all looking forward to our upcoming picnic! It is sure to be a blast!

Although this activity is geared towards families of our Russian Adoption Support Group/Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption, all are invited to attend.

We will have games for the children, lots of good food, and FUN!

Please remember to RSVP to Jenny Davis at (801) 222-8897 or by email: davisje@uvsc.edu by 2:00 pm Friday, August 3.

Important information to remember:
- Saturday, August 4, 1-4pm
- Orem Community Park
- Bring one main dish and a side dish

Driving Directions:
- From North:
  - Southbound I-15 to Orem Center Street exit
  - When you get off the exit, turn left (traveling East on Center Street)
  - Turn right onto 400 West
  - Turn right onto 165 South
  - Follow the road around and you will see a pavilion and parking lot on your left—you've made it!
- From South:
  - Northbound I-15 to Orem Center Street exit
  - When you get off the exit, turn right (traveling East on Center Street)
  - Turn right onto 400 West
  - Turn right onto 165 South
  - Follow the road around and you will see a pavilion and parking lot on your left—you've made it!

Concert Benefits Eastern European Orphanages

On August 18, Marvin Goldstein, a highly acclaimed composer, pianist, and entertainer, will present an evening of piano favorites, including Broadway show tunes, ragtime and songs from the early 1900s, and love songs of the 20th century, with lots of audience participation.

This performance benefits Focus on Children’s orphanage art program. FOC is a non-profit international humanitarian and adoption agency. The art program features products created from original artwork by children in orphanages in Russia, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan. Proceeds are returned to the orphanages to buy not only art supplies, but also to provide for everyday needs such as food, medicines and clothing. Learn more about the program on our website at www.focusonchildren.com.

Original art created by orphanage children will be on display in the theater lobby. Included in your admission is a free 2000 FOC Orphanage Art Calendar. After enjoying the calendar for the remainder of the year, you may frame art prints to enjoy for many years to come.

The performance is 7-9 pm, Saturday August 18, at the Jeanne Wagner Theatre at 138 West, 300 South in Salt Lake City. Tickets are $10, for general seating. Tickets may be purchased through ArtTix at www.arttix.org, through Marvin’s site at http://www.marvingoldstein.com/, or by contacting Dellory Matthews at focusonchildren@juno.com or 801-982-1420.

Russia Days: A Celebration of Russian and Eastern European Culture

Russia Days 2001 is fast approaching and preparations are already well under way. We are excited at the prospect of bringing yet another celebration of the beauty of Russian and Eastern European culture to Utah.

This year, Russia Days will be held Saturday, September 22- Saturday September 29.

The tentative schedule is as follows:
- Saturday, September 22: Folk Dance Fun
- Sunday, September 23: Fireside by Elder Dennis Neuenschuander at UVSC Institute
- Monday, September 24: "The Frog Princess" puppet show at American Fork library
- Wednesday, September 24: Pysanka (Ukrainian egg decorating) class taught by Ingrid Hersman in Salt Lake City
- Saturday, September 29: Booths and Entertainment including the BYU Folk Dancers at Thanksgiving Point 9-4

See our web site at www.uvsc.edu/russia for the latest information on these and other events.
wheat, candy, or coins to symbolize their wishes for a prosperous life for the new couple. Church weddings have continued to remain the Russian tradition. Wedding ceremonies held in the Russian Orthodox Church are longer than the typical Catholic Church wedding and involve beautiful rituals such as the sharing of crowns prior to the exchange of rings as well as jointly rounding the altar three times. Overall, the ceremony is abundant with religious tradition as marriage is a holy sacrament.

The bride, the groom, the maid of honor, and the best man leave the church by car, followed by the guests. It is considered to be a good omen if it rains during the wedding procession, because rain means abundance and happiness. If the bride and groom promise to be faithful over a well, then it is believed that they will have a long and happy marriage. It is customary for the wedding procession to celebrate their identity and heritage by visiting important cultural monuments. Many wedding parties are often spotted placing flowers at the site of the Eternal flame at the monument to the dead soldiers from World War II. The parents leave the wedding ceremony early to meet the couple at the threshold with bread and salt. They put a round loaf of bread on a beautiful towel with a salt shaker. It is then up to the bride and groom to break the bread in two. It is believed that whoever gets the biggest piece will be the head of the family. Following the breaking of the bread, the bride and groom proceed to the reception where they receive gifts and everyone makes toasts. The wedding meal follows the toasts, and music and dancing carry the celebration late into the night.

July’s Trivia Answers

1. 15, although we might be able to quibble about the numbers a little. They are: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia. Other countries, such as Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, etc. were, to one degree or another, supervised by the Soviet government.

2. There are so many, but here are just a few: Nikolai Andreyevich Rimsky-Korsakov, Mikhail Ivanovich Glinka, Dmitri Dmitriyevich Shostakovich, Sergei Sergeyevich Prokofiev, Igor Fyodorovich Stravinsky, Sergei Vasilievich Rachmaninov, Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

3. 1917

4. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev

5. Leo Tolstoy

6. Mikhail Feodorovich Romanov became the new tsar after the end of Rurik rule and the ensuing struggle for power. He ruled 1613-1645.

7. White, Blue, Red

8. Joseph Stalin

9. Although the Soviet Union had signed a non-aggression pact with Hitler’s Germany on August 14, 1939, they joined the Allies when Germany invaded the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941.

Upcoming Events

August

4 RASG/FRUA Picnic (1-4, Orem Community Park)
18 Focus on Children Benefit Concert with Marvin Goldstein
20-25 Orphan Art Products for sale at Provo High School (for more information contact Julie Taylor at hpunltd@msn.com or (801) 423-1136)
22 Day of the Russian Federation State Flag
23 Adoption Open House and Seminar (Courtyard Marriott, 1600 North Freedom Boulevard (200 West))
Presentations about international adoption and aid programs

September

22-29 Russia Days: Celebration of Russian and Eastern European Culture

Volume 2, Issue 8
Russian Recipe: Berry Kisel

Serves 6

Kisel is a fruity, smooth and creamy dessert which is served cold in bowls or, if diluted with milk, served as a delicious drink. Kisel is often made with fresh fruit juice (with or without the pulp) or with milk or almonds.

Ingredients
1 quart strawberries, raspberries, or blackberries, (or a combination).
1 cup sugar.
6 tablespoons potato starch.
6 cups milk, or half-and-half.

Hull, wash, and dry the berries. Purée in a blender or food processor, then push through a fine sieve into a bowl, reserving the juice and the pulp. Put the pulp into a 3-quart saucepan, add 1 1/2 quarts of water and all but 1-2 tablespoons of sugar and stir the mixture. In a separate bowl, stir the potato starch and the berry juice together. Bring the pulp mixture to a boil and vigorously stir in the starch-juice mixture. Return to a boil and remove from the heat. When cooled somewhat, pour the Kisel into dessert bowls or glasses. Sprinkle with the remaining sugar to prevent a skin from forming, then refrigerate for 1 hour. Kisel could be served as is, or accompanied with glasses of milk or half-and-half.

Trivia
1. Over what years did the Romanov dynasty extend?
2. How do you say, "How are you?" in Russian?
3. What does it mean if you give a Russian a dozen roses?
4. On what day is International Women’s Day?
5. What important Russian holiday is celebrated in June?
6. On what day is Russian Orthodox Christmas celebrated?
7. What is the average number of children per family in Russia?
8. What is a dacha?
9. In what month does the Utah-Russia Institute hold “Russia Days”? 

We’re on the Web: [www.uvsc.edu/russia](http://www.uvsc.edu/russia)